



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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Commission honors Getman for 'exemplary service'

The Fair Political Practices Commission has honored former Chairman Karen A. Getman for her "exemplary service" with a resolution passed unanimously by the five-member commission at its regular monthly meeting last Thursday (June 5).

A copy of the resolution is attached, or available on the Web site at www.fppc.ca.gov as item #18 on the June agenda. Getman's four-year term expired earlier this year.

The first woman to chair the FPPC, which was created by the Political Reform Act of 1974, Getman, 45, headed the 75-person agency from March 29, 1999, to April 9, 2003. A graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, she is currently *of counsel* to the San Leandro-based political law firm of Remcho, Johansen & Purcell. She is also the first Executive in Residence at the Center on Politics of the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and was recently appointed by Gov. Gray Davis to the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Appeals Board.

The commission commended Getman during her tenure as chair for: completion of a lengthy project to simplify the complex conflict-of-interest rules; initiating an expedited enforcement program which led to "a three-fold increase in agency prosecutions"; overseeing implementation of Proposition 34, the campaign finance measure approved by voters in November 2000; creation of the Public Education Unit in the FPPC to "better educate and inform members of the public, the press and those regulated by the Political Reform Act"; and defense of the agency in several major court challenges, including ongoing litigation involving campaign and lobbying disclosure requirements for Indian casinos which argue immunity because of tribal sovereignty.

The chair is the only full-time, salaried member of the commission, and is appointed by the governor, who also makes one other appointment (who must be a member of a different political party). Other part-time, unsalaried commissioners are appointed by the attorney general, the controller and the secretary of state. Each serves one four-year term and cannot be reappointed.

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